Representation of Orissa Government against Election Commission guidelines

553. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Orissa Government has represented against the Election Commission guidelines barring politicians from participating in relief work in cyclone-affected areas;

(b) if so, the relaxations proposed; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor keeping in view that officials are often transferred and are not familiar with topography and need help of people's representatives?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) to (c) The Election Commission has informed that it had received a request from the Government of Orissa for allowing people's representatives like Ministers, MLAs and political functionaries to assist officers in relief and rehabilitation measures in the Cyclone affected areas in the State. The commission while announcing the general elections to the Legislative Assemblies, however, clarified that except relevant Government officers and organisation incharge of the rehabilitation and reconstruction activities, no political functionaries, either of ruling party or otherwise, may be in any way involved in the actual distribution of relief or implementation of any rehabilitation activities.

Restoration of people's faith in judicial system

554. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the principal of rule of law enshrined in our Constitution for judicial and administration has been subverted to suit the manipulators with the result that the people's faith in the judicial administrators is gradually eroding;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to refer this issue to a

Committee of expert to request ways and means to restore people's faith in the system; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Criteria for appointment of Notaries

555. SHRI V. N. GADGIL: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of notaries appointed by the Government; and

(b) what are the criteria for their appointment?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) Total number of Notaries appointed by the Central Government as on 24.2.2000 is 1586.

(b) As regards criteria for appointing Notaries by the Central Government, the Notaries are appointed under the Notaries Act, 1952 and the Notaries Rules, 1956. Under Rule 3 of the said Rules, a person may apply for appointment as a Notary if he has been practising as a Legal Practitioner for ten years. In case the applicant for notaryship is a person belonging either to the Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Classes or a women, then the condition for eligibility for appointment as a Notary is seven years of legal practice. The above categories of advocates may apply for appointment as Notary on the prescribed form (Memorial) which has to be countersigned by a Magistrate, a Bank Manager, a Merchant and two prominent local residents. Thereafter, the Competent Authority examines the application and may ascertain from State Bar Council, Bar Association and other authority in the area where the applicant proposes to practise as Notary, the objections, if any, to the appointment of the applicant as Notary. The applicant is also given an opportunity of hearing against the objections, if any. After